THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir, Government have notified the draft Bio-Medical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1995 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These have been published as Draft Rules for information of the public and concerned agencies likely to be affected, inviting objections or suggestions. A final notification is required to be issued after considering any objections or suggestions received.

Power Tariff for Agriculture Sector

98. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to enforce a uniform commercial power tariff for the agriculture sector all over the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES(DR S VENUGOPALACHARI) :(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Seeds

99. SHRI ANIL BASU Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the name and quantity of various seeds imported during the last two years including names of the companies importing seeds;

(b) whether indigenous seed production has declined due to import of the seeds,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage seed production indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government have initiated several steps to encourage indigenous seed production. The Public Sector National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India,. 13 State Seeds Corporations and State Departments of Agriculture and several private sector seed companies are undertaking large scale seed production of quality seeds. A number of Central Sector Schemes are being implemented in the seeds sector to strengthen indigenous seed production. These schemes are intended for varietal development, improvement of quality control arrangements, provision of transport subsidy, strengthening seed production programmes in remote areas and strammlining certified seed production of vegetable crops

In addition to the above, under the World Bank aided National Seeds Project-III assistance has been provided for infrastructure development and organisational and financial restructuring to public sector seed corporations, State Seed Certification Agencies, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agriculture Universities. The Central sector Schemes for development horticulture crops such as fruits, spices, vegetables, coconut, cashew, floriculture root and tuber crops etc. provide necessary support for multiplication of seed/planting material. Similarly, Centrally Sponsored Production Oriented Crop Development Schemes on various agricultural crops provide incentive for additional production a certified seed of identified varieties

[Translation]

Ban on Sulphos Pesticide

100. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICUTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of suicide by using sulphos pesticide are being reported in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the aforesaid pesticide has been banned; and

(d) if not, whether it is proposed to ban this pesticide?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) . (a) and (b). The *statement* giving the details of poisoning cases (suicidal, homicidal, accidental, and occupational) due to various pesticides including Celphos (Aluminium phosphide) is enclosed.

(c) and (d). The use of Celphos (Aluminium phosphide) has been reviewed Keeping in view the overall usefulness of the product it has been decided to continue its use. However, to avoid reported misuse of Celphos (Aluminium phosphide), which is an effective storage/grain protectant, severe restrictions have been imposed on its free sale in the tablet form under the Insecticides Act, 1968 Besides, improved and safer cage/capsule, shelf trilaminated and envelop packaging of aluminium phosphide have been registered with effect from 15.7.1992.